

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 203878

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 203878

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FSO'S TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON

REF: STATE 202843

1. WE ARE PREPARING TO SEND FSO'S ROBERT B. HOUGHTON AND
DAVID L. MACK TO CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON, ACCOMPANIED
BY TWO SECURITY OFFICERS, TO CARRY OUT THE MISSION PRE-
VIOUSLY DESCRIBED TO YOU. PRESS GUIDANCE AND INSTRU-
CTIONS FOR INFORMING KARAME AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS (SECTOS
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PAGE 02 STATE 203878

21002 AND 21003) SHOULD BE REVISED TO REFLECT FACT THAT

BOTH MEN HAVE HAD EXPERIENCE IN LEBANESE AFFAIRS AND BOTH SPEAK FRENCH AND ARABIC. HOUGHTON UNTIL HIS MOST RECENT WASHINGTON ASSIGNMENT, WAS DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION IN BEIRUT.

2. SAME ARRANGEMENTS WILL PREVAIL ON THIS MISSION AS THOSE PLANNED FOR THE DJEREJIAN PARTY.

3. PRESENT PLANNING IS THAT HOUGHTON AND MACK WILL LEAVE WASHINGTON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18, AND ARRIVE IN CYPRUS LATE THURSDAY, AUGUST 19. THEY WOULD TAKE A BOAT TO JOUNIEH ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO COMMENCE CONTACTS ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 21. DETAILED ITINERARY IN SEPTTEL (NICOSIA PLEASE MAKE BOAT ARRANGEMENTS).

4. FOR ALL ADDRESSEES: ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS MISSION HAVE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE ARRIVAL IN CHRISTIAN-CONTROLLED LEBANON OF HOUGHTON AND MACK WILL IMMEDIATELY BE PUBLICIZED BY THE CHRISTIANS WHO--DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY--MAY TRY TO IMPART THE IMPRESSION THAT THE U.S. IS RECOGNIZING DE FACTO PARTITION. WE ARE ENDEAVORING TO DEAL WITH THIS ALLEGATION BY MAKING THE VISIT AS LOW-KEY AND ROUTINE-APPEARING AS POSSIBLE. THE VISIT IS PART OF EMBASSY BEIRUT'S OVERALL MISSION. IN THIS SENSE, THEREFORE, IT IS PREFERABLE THAT THERE BE NO EFFORT TO HIDE THE FACTS, ONCE THE MEN HAVE ARRIVED IN LEBANON AND MADE CONTACT THERE. WE DO NOT WANT THEIR VISIT KNOWN UNTIL THEY ARE SAFELY IN JOUNIEH, HOWEVER. INSTRUCTIONS TO INFORM GOVERNMENTS (OTHER THAN LEBANESE) SHOULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT UNTIL THE DEPARTMENT GIVES SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION, WHICH IT WILL DO WHEN WE HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT HOUGHTON AND MACK HAVE EMBARKED FROM CYPRUS.

5. FOR NICOSIA: PLEASE CONFIRM WHEN HOUGHTON AND MACK HAVE DEPARTED CYPRUS FOR JOUNIEH.

6. FOR BEIRUT: WE ARE ASSUMING THAT SECURITY RISKS FOR HOUGHTON AND MACK CAN BE KEPT WITHIN MANAGEABLE LIMITS ONCE THEY HAVE ARRIVED IN JOUNIEH, WITH THE HELP OF
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PAGE 03 STATE 203878

THE TWO ACCOMPANYING SECURITY OFFICERS COMBINED WITH THE COOPERATION WE HOPE TO OBTAIN FROM THE CHRISTIAN AUTHORITIES. TO MINIMIZE RISKS UP TO THEN, WE ARE CONSIDERING WHETHER TO FOREGO ADVANCE NOTIFICATION TO THE CHRISTIAN AUTHORITIES AND EVEN FSL JOHN KHAWAND;
IN THAT EVENT HOUGHTON AND MACK WOULD MAKE

THEIR OWN HOTEL AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS ON THE SPOT AND

SEEK APPOINTMENTS, EXPLAINING THAT EMBASSY BEIRUT WAS NOT ABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM IN COMMUNICATIONS AND FOR SECURITY REASONS. WE WOULD LIKE YOUR COMMENTS ON IMPORTANCE OF SOME ADVANCE NOTIFICATION AS AGAINST SECURITY RISK IT COULD ENTAIL.

7. FOR PARIS: INFORM SY OFFICERS MULVEY AND FRATODDI THEY SHOULD OBTAIN LEBANESE MULTI-ENTRY VISAS AND PROCEED TO ATHENS BY WEDNESDAY SO AS TO RENDEVOUZ THERE WITH HOUGHTON AND MACK. KISSINGER

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